FROM SPACE DOWN TO EARTH

NASA technology makes our lives better

Sunglasses
Gold coating and ion beam bonding were used in astronauts' helmet shields to make lenses more scratch-resistant and to protect astronauts' eyes from ultraviolet light and infrared radiation in space.

Invisible Braces
Polycrystalline alumina, the ceramic material in tooth-colored brackets, was developed from research to track heat-seeking missiles.

In-Line Skate Boots
The accordion-like corrugations on space suits are used in the design of in-line skates.

Compact Discs
Compact discs were developed by NASA to store the vast amounts of information that have to be taken aboard the spacecraft.

Sports Helmet
Shock-absorbing "memory foam," which lines the inside of sports helmets, was first developed for use in aircraft seats. Aero- dynamic bicycle helmets evolved from the design of an airfoil

Wheel Lubricants
A dry lubricant used in the Apollo, Viking and Skylab spacecraft in the 1960s and '70s bonds to metal and resists corrosion.

Wheel Ball Bearings
A thin film of diamond-like carbon, applied with a NASA-developed process, helps ball bearings, tools and moving parts last 10 times longer.

Athletic Shoes
Shock-absorbing material used in Moon boots helped astronauts walk safely on the Moon and makes today's athletic shoes lighter and more stable.